

Unified Credential Framework

Western Governors University's Unified Credential Framework (UCF) enables a unified system of WGU-issued, credit-bearing credentials where learners earn incremental value as they make their way to higher-level credentials. This framework supports Skills-Denominated Credentials (SDCs), including our competency-based, skills-tagged, and shareable degrees, and a new system of micro-credentialing high-demand, labor market-relevant skills and competencies.

UCF Criteria

Workforce-Aligned Competencies and Skills

Credentials recognize professional and personal competencies and skills explicitly aligned to high-demand workforce needs.

Relevant and Authentic Assessment

Credentials require validation of achievement of competence, which is assessed using authentic, real-world workforce use cases.

Transparent and Portable

Credentials are issued in open standards allowing for seamless portability and transparency of credentials between organizations.

Validated Open Skills

Credentials represent skills aligned to industry partners and/or external bodies ensuring market value.

SDCs Mastery Classes

Class 1

Mastery of essential knowledge, skills, and dispositions foundational for the demands of modern society, learning and work.

Class 2

Ability to apply an expanding set of knowledge, skills, and dispositions in a given professional or academic context.

Class 3

Ability to apply and transfer an expanding set of knowledge, skills, and dispositions across a range of professional or academic contexts.

Class 4

Ability to create novel strategies and tactics to address the requirements of a range of professional or academic contexts.



Degrees

Degree and Certificate Programs are issued by WGU via diplomas and are eligible for financial aid.

Degree Programs

- Prepares learners for employment and advancement in a specified career trajectory or for more advanced study
- Mastery class: 2-4
- Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's

Certificate Programs

- Prepares learners for employment and advancement in a specified career trajectory or for more advanced study and typically are smaller in size than a traditional degree program
- Mastery class: 2-4
- Endorsement, Post-Baccalaureate, Post-Master's



Micro-Credentials

Micro-credentials are issued by WGU and WGU Academy via digital badges.

Specializations

- Prepares learners for various specified jobs and skills within a professional sector or academic domain
- Mastery class: 2-4
- Standalone, embedded, or concentration of a degree program

Certificates

- Prepares learners for a particular job or set of professional or academic skills and tasks
- Mastery class: 1-4
- Standalone, embedded, or concentration of a degree program

